

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to secure our nation, invest in America, and respond and prepare for disasters.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5244, the Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, which protects families across America from the confusing, deceptive, and unfair credit card practices. I believe that passage of this legislation is long overdue.

Unfortunately, the increased usage of credit cards among Latinos has resulted in more Latinos with credit card debt. Between 1992 and 2001, the share of Latino families with credit cards grew from 43 percent to 53 percent and the average credit card debt among Latinos increased by nearly 20 percent to \$3,700. Even worse, credit card issuers have profited by taking advantage of Latino families' need to rely on credit for everyday expenses. Credit card companies imposed an astounding \$18.1 billion in penalty fees on families carrying credit card balances. Seventy-seven percent of Latinos carry a balance on their credit cards, which makes them especially susceptible to credit card industry's unethical tricks and penalties.

Inequities in access to mainstream credit cards mean that Latinos are targeted by unscrupulous companies and are more likely than Whites to have credit cards with high interest rates. Because credit card companies can increase interest rates at any moment and can charge interest on debt that consumers have already paid on time, they have trapped vulnerable low-income Latino families in a never-ending cycle of debt.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 5244, the Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights. We need to end unfair and arbitrary interest rate increases and protect vulnerable consumers from high-fee subprime credit cards. I look forward to working with my colleagues to protecting the financial security of consumers across our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RALPH REGULA, THE HONORABLE DEBORAH PRYCE AND THE HONORABLE DAVID HOBSON

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, the state of Ohio has been greatly blessed to have leaders like RALPH REGULA, DAVE HOBSON, and DEBORAH PRYCE working for them in the United States Congress. Their decades of hard work and outstanding service have made the state of Ohio a better place and have set an example for the rest of the Ohio Delegation. I am

proud to have had the opportunity to work with them on the issues affecting our state and our nation. RALPH REGULA has been a great example of service and statesmanship as the Dean of the Ohio Delegation. DAVE HOBSON has been a role model and mentor for me since I took office in 2003 and I appreciate his friendship and support. DEB PRYCE has been a graceful and determined leader for all Ohioans over her 16 years in Congress. I join the rest of my colleagues in congratulating RALPH REGULA, DAVE HOBSON, and DEBORAH PRYCE, on their service to their districts, our State, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF REPRESENTATIVE JIM SAXTON

SPEECH OF

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my friend and fellow member of the New Jersey delegation, Representative JIM SAXTON. Mr. SAXTON came to Congress nearly 24 years ago and since that time has served as a tireless advocate for the people of New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District.

He has served as a role model to members of the delegation, including me, throughout his distinguished service. On the House Armed Services Committee, Mr. SAXTON worked to improve the quality of life for those who serve in the military and their families on the home front, and especially those who work with the Special Forces Command.

Mr. SAXTON has been a strong supporter of military bases across the country, especially Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. He will be remembered for his passionate and steadfast advocacy on behalf of his constituents and our state.

Mr. SAXTON has a tremendous record of environmental protection of New Jersey's beaches and coastline over many years. And we have worked closely together in passing the Highlands Conservation Act, which protects open space and water supplies vital to the entire Northeast.

His thoughtful and deliberative style serves as an example to other lawmakers and is a true testament to good government. Mr. SAXTON has always been known to do the "right thing," which has made him an example to his colleagues and endeared him to his constituents.

On a more personal level, JIM SAXTON has been a good friend and mentor, as he was to my predecessor, the late Dean A. Gallo. Like Dean Gallo, I have benefited from his knowledge and wisdom, his good humor and compassion, and I will surely miss him as a colleague.

The retirement of Congressman JIM SAXTON is a loss to the people of New Jersey and the U.S. Congress. His leadership and knowledge will be missed. I thank him for his service and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as I was thinking about what to say about my good friend BUD CRAMER, it occurred to me that the many things I could say would soon be forgotten.

But what I will remember is his friendship and the experiences we shared together.

A former constituent of mine, Johnny Cash, summed it up best in when he sang "Jim Wore a Tie Today." The lyrics of the song follow:

"Jim, I did everything that I could,
But your fever just wouldn't die down,
So I tied your horse to the wagon bed,
And last night I brought you to town.

"But when I got there you were gone Jim,
And there was nothin' nobody could do,
I bought you a suit and a tie Jim,
And today I wore one too.

"Jim I wore a tie today,
The first one that I ever wore,
And you'd have said I looked like a dummy,
Out of a dry goods store.

"Jim they said a lot of things,
But I don't know a thing they said,
My mind kept wanderin' off down the trail,
Back to the times that we've had.

"And for gold on the cuff,
We've done everything in the book I guess,
And a lot they'd never thought up.

"Well Jim, you're ridin' on ahead,
I guess that's how it has be,
But when you reach those streets paved with gold Jim,
Stake a claim out for me . . ."

CALLING CARD CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3402, the Calling Card Consumer Protection Act. After years of deceptive and abusive marketing practice by the calling card industry, I am pleased to be here today to offer protection to our constituents who rely on the cards to stay in touch with their loved ones. The victims of calling card fraud are often the most vulnerable among us—they are low-income, immigrants, military families—in short, the ones who can least afford it. I think this is sensible legislation, and I thank my colleague and friend Congressman ELIOT ENGEL for all of his hard work to enact this bill.

I am proud to represent a diverse constituency and am proud to support the Calling Card Consumer Protection Act to crack down on those abuses. Too many people are lured in by promises of cheap overseas calls but end up getting less than half of what they paid